

Crown Court Bulletin

January to March 2010

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Document Details

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Important Notes:

Figures are computed from a live database and may change due to late returns and further validations.

Date of disposal is based on the date of sentencing, date of acquittal or date a bill of indictment is not proceeded with.

Waiting times do not exclude recess.

Summary

Cases received and dealt with:

There were 322 Crown cases received during January to March 2010. This was a 5% increase on the 306 received during January to March 2009. The cases dealt with have increased by 6% from 372 in January to March 2009, to 393 for the same period in 2010 (Figure 1).

Defendants received and dealt with:

409 defendants were received in Crown Court during January to March 2010 (an 8% increase since the same period last year, when 377 defendants were received). 513 defendants were dealt with during January to March 2010 (an increase of 9% against the same period last year, when 469 defendants were dealt with).

Waiting times:

The average time from committal to hearing for January to March 2010 was 117 days, compared with 128 days for the same period in 2009. The average time from conviction to disposal was 45 days, compared with 54 days for the equivalent period in 2009.

Disposals:

County Court Judges disposed of 96% of defendants (494). 16% of defendants were charged solely with offences against the person while 42% of defendants had a combination of charges.

Pleas and findings:

Of the 513 defendants disposed, 219 (39%) pleaded guilty to all charges.

Crown Court sittings:

In total there were 773 Crown court sittings for January to March 2010 compared with 762 for January to March 2009 (an increase of 1%), with a total time of 2142 hours sat compared with 2111 hours sat during the same period last year.

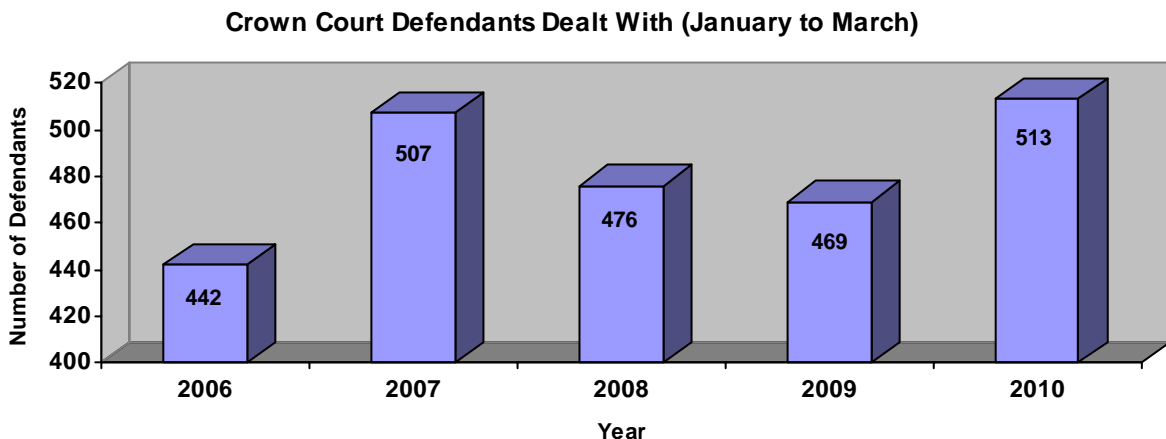


Table 1 - Crown Court cases received

	Total
Belfast	80
Londonderry	29
Antrim	58
Fermanagh and Tyrone	59
Armagh and South Down	22
Ards	33
Craigavon	41
Total	322

Table 2 - Crown Court cases disposed

	Total
Belfast	133
Londonderry	39
Antrim	46
Fermanagh and Tyrone	75
Armagh and South Down	31
Ards	38
Craigavon	31
Total	393

Table 3 - Crown Court defendants received

	Total
Belfast	108
Londonderry	33
Antrim	76
Fermanagh and Tyrone	79
Armagh and South Down	22
Ards	44
Craigavon	47
Total	409

Table 4 - Crown Court defendants disposed

	Total
Belfast	193
Londonderry	51
Antrim	56
Fermanagh and Tyrone	93
Armagh and South Down	42
Ards	43
Craigavon	35
Total	513

Table 5 - Waiting times in days

	Committal to hearing - days	Conviction to disposal - days	Total defendants disposed
Belfast	147	66	177
Londonderry	69	53	48
Antrim	144	41	54
Fermanagh and Tyrone	73	22	92
Armagh and South Down	103	33	41
Ards	97	29	42
Craigavon	148	33	33
Total	117	45	487

[1] Excludes defendants who had a bench warrant or deferred sentence

Table 6 - Crown Court defendants disposed by judge type

	Judicial Level		Total
	County Court Judge	High Court Judge	
Belfast	177	16	193
Londonderry	51		51
Antrim	55	1	56
Fermanagh and Tyrone	93		93
Armagh and South Down	42		42
Ards	42	1	43
Craigavon	34	1	35
Total	494	19	513

Table 7 - Crown Court defendants disposed by charge type

All Offences Against the Person	84
All Sexual Offences	43
All Burglary Offences	15
All Robbery Offences	13
All Theft Offences	30
All Fraud and Forgery Offences	18
All Criminal Damage Offences	7
All Offences Against the State	7
All Other Offences	9
All Drug Offences	34
All Motoring Offences	25
All Non-Police Offences	10
Combination of charges	218
Total	513

Table 8 - Outcome of Crown Court Defendants

	Plea of guilty on all charges	Plea of not guilty on at least one charge - found guilty on at least one charge	Plea not guilty - acquitted on all charges	All charges withdrawn	Total
Belfast	81	76	36		193
Londonderry	24	22	5		51
Antrim	20	24	12		56
Fermanagh and Tyrone	33	42	17	1	93
Armagh and South Down	12	23	7		42
Ards	17	21	5		43
Craigavon	14	11	9	1	35
Total	201	219	91	2	513

Table 9 - Crown Court sitting times

	Number of sittings	Total time
Belfast	333	984:49
Londonderry	76	199:02
Antrim	73	223:13
Fermanagh and Tyrone	72	244:25
Armagh and South Down	73	190:54
Ards	85	165:03
Craigavon	61	135:01
Total	773	2142:27

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